the unorganized sector including agricultural workers. National Social Assistance Programme covering old-age pension, family and maternity benefits for select groups is also in operation.

Financial crisis in Tamil Nadu

*274. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has sought Rs. 3,000 crores package to meet the present financial crisis in the State;

(b) whether request has also been made to rescind the limit of borrowing capacities of the State Government for implementation of development programme; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As regards package of Rs. 3000 crores for Tamil Nadu to meet the financial crisis, it would not be possible to open a new window for non-plan assistance to States other than what was recommended by the Finance Commission nor does the current economic slow down affecting Sates and the Union in equal measure make it feasible for the Centre to allot any additionality as grants.

Regarding restrictions to borrow for development programmes, there is need to limit further growth of debt raised by State owned enterprises backed by State Government guarantees in view of high level of total outstanding debt of most State Governments including Tamil Nadu. Bringing such borrowing within the discipline of Article 293 (3) of the Constitution is a prudent step towards fiscal consolidation for which the Govt. of India requires the support of all the States.

Decline in Resource Utilisation

*275 SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a write up captioned "Resource Utilisation falls, stunts Ninth Plan growth" appearing

in the Economic Times dated 10th July, 2002 highlighting that poor utilization of resources was a larger growth deterrent in the recent years than their availability;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what are the fresh steps initiated to fine tune the monitoring mechanism for better management and fuller utilization of the scarce available resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Mid-Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan had indicated that there had been shortfall in public savings and public investment.

(c) The Planning Commission is holding Quarterly Performance Review Meetings with the implementing Ministries/Departments and states to monitor utilization of plan resources and to decide on corrective measures.

Rental on (WLL) VPT

†*276. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the provisions relating to the rental and slabs of per call charges to be recovered for the connection of VPT (WLL) and (WLL) NCT provided to the Gram Sabhas;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a provision for not providing STD facility on demand on Public Telephone and VPT in Gram Sabhas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the justification for not providing such facility by the officers in Mainpuri?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.